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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/005,493	11/02/2001	Durga Prasad Satapathy	31838	7989
33272	7590	03/25/2005	EXAMINER	
SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P. 6391 SPRINT PARKWAY MAILSTOP: KSOPHT0101-22100 OVERLAND PARK, KS 66251-2100			TRAN, PHILIP B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2155	

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/005,493

Applicant(s)

SATAPATHY ET AL.

Examiner

Philip B Tran

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/2/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 17-18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Saidon et al (Hereafter, Saidon), U.S. Pat. No. 6,820,055.

Regarding claim 1, Saidon teaches a system operable to represent a user and to independently respond to a person wishing to reach the user (= a system for automated real-time conversion and transmission of speech and text and transfer response to user) [see Abstract], the system comprising:

a plurality of interface agents each operable to convert a message received from the person into a written request and relay a result to the person (= speech-to-text conversion and transferring the text to a user) [see Abstract and Col. 1, Line 49 to Col. 3, Line 10 and Col. 5, Lines 1-12];

a command creator operable to convert the request into a database query (= database query) [see Figs. 1 & 6-7 and Col. 22, Line 42 to Col. 23, Line 25];

an expert system operable to modify the query by applying a collection of rules (= controlling event operations using the Rob-Cop expert system for registration and event scheduling and administrating the transaction/business relationship) [see Col. 19, Line 57 to Col. 20, Line 11];

a database operable to store information relating to the user (= database) [see Figs. 6-7 and Col. 23, Lines 8-25]; and

an output action generator operable to access the database, execute the query thereby generating the result based on the information in the database, and relay the result to the interface agents (= accessing the database and transferring data to user) [see Figs. 3-7 and Col. 19, Line 45 to Col. 20, Line 11].

Regarding claim 2, Saidon further teaches the system as set forth in claim 1, at least one of the interface agents being further operable to convert the result into a verbal response (= text-to-speech conversion) [see Col. 5, Lines 1-12].

Regarding claim 3, Saidon further teaches the system as set forth in claim 1, at least one of the interface agents being further operable to convert a spoken message into the written request (= speech-to-text conversion) [see Col. 14, Lines 15-67].

Regarding claim 6, Saidon further teaches the system as set forth in claim 1, the system including a classifier operable to create, store, and retrieve a classification associated with one of a plurality of records (= handling the stored data and controlling

the retrieval of data from the database) [see Col. 2, Lines 22-41 and Col. 19, Lines 5-32].

Regarding claim 7, Saidon further teaches the system as set forth in claim 1, the interface agents being selected from the group consisting of an email agent, a telephone agent, a voice-mail agent, and a video-conference agent [see Figs. 5-8].

Regarding claim 8, Saidon further teaches the system as set forth in claim 1, the information stored in the database being selected from the group consisting of email, word processing documents, spreadsheets, presentations, schedules, contracts, drawings, figures, telephone numbers, dates, names, records, notes, files, images, addresses, and personal data about the user [see Fig. 6].

Claim 17 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 1. In addition, Saidon discloses the identity of the source can be identified upon login [see Col. 17, Lines 5-10] and providing password-based access to the control operation [see Col. 18, Lines 27-34]. This suggests that there exists a procedure of authenticating a user.

Regarding claim 18, Saidon further teaches the method of claim 17, further comprises the step of modifying the query based upon a classification (= controlling event operations using the Rob-Cop expert system for registration and event scheduling

and administrating the transaction/business relationship) [see Col. 19, Line 57 to Col. 20, Line 11].

Regarding claim 21, Saidon further teaches converting the result into a spoken response and playing the response for the person [see Col. 5, Lines 1-12].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 4-5, 9-16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saidon et al (Hereafter, Saidon), U.S. Pat. No. 6,820,055 in view of

Freedman et al (Hereafter, Freedman), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0249650 A1.

Regarding claims 4-5, Saidon does not explicitly teach the system as set forth in claim 3, at least one of the interface agents being further operable to generate a voice signature based upon the spoken message and an authenticator operable to match the voice signature with one of a plurality of known records, thereby authenticating the person. However, Hasan, in the same field of voice-enabled system for remote access of information endeavor, discloses generating voice signature and authenticating a person by comparing spoken word with stored word [see Abstract and Fig. 3]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Hasan into the teaching of Saidon in order to provide a more secured communication by preventing an unauthorized access to confidential information.

Regarding claim 9, Saidon teaches a system operable to represent a user and to independently respond to a person wishing to reach the user (= a system for automated real-time conversion and transmission of speech and text and transfer response to user) [see Abstract], the system comprising:

a plurality of interface agents each operable to convert a message received from the person into a written request and relay a result to the person (= speech-to-text conversion and transferring the text to a user) [see Abstract and Col. 1, Line 49 to Col. 3, Line 10 and Col. 5, Lines 1-12];

a classifier operable to create, store, and retrieve a classification associated with each record (= handling the stored data and controlling the retrieval of data from the database) [see Col. 2, Lines 22-41 and Col. 19, Lines 5-32];

a command creator operable to convert the request into a database query (= database query) [see Figs. 1 & 6-7 and Col. 22, Line 42 to Col. 23, Line 25];

an expert system operable to modify the query by applying a collection of rules (= controlling event operations using the Rob-Cop expert system for registration and event scheduling and administrating the transaction/business relationship) [see Col. 19, Line 57 to Col. 20, Line 11];

a database operable to store information relating to the user (= database) [see Figs. 6-7 and Col. 23, Lines 8-25]; and

an output action generator operable to access the database, execute the query thereby generating the result based on the information in the database, and relay the result to the interface agents (= accessing the database and transferring data to user) [see Figs. 3-7 and Col. 19, Line 45 to Col. 20, Line 11].

Saidon does not explicitly teach appending the request with an identifier and an authenticator operable to match the identifier with one of a plurality of known records, thereby authenticating the person. However, Saidon does disclose the identity of the source can be identified upon login [see Saidon, Col. 17, Lines 5-10] and providing password-based access to the control operation [see Saidon, Col. 18, Lines 27-34]. This suggests that there exists a procedure of authenticating a user.

Hasan, in the same field of voice-enabled system for remote access of information endeavor, discloses the user provides his personal identification code (PIN) and authenticator compares the user's PIN with the corresponding PIN stored in the memory to establish the user's identity [see Hasan, Abstract and Figs. 2-3 and Col. 4, Line 56 to Col. 5, Line 18]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Hasan into the teaching of Saidon in order to provide a more secured communication by preventing an unauthorized access to confidential information.

Regarding claim 10, Saidon further teaches the system as set forth in claim 9, at least one of the interface agents being further operable to convert the result into a verbal response (= text-to-speech conversion) [see Col. 5, Lines 1-12].

Regarding claim 11, Saidon further teaches the system as set forth in claim 9, at least one of the interface agents being further operable to convert a spoken message into the written request (= speech-to-text conversion) [see Col. 14, Lines 15-67].

Regarding claim 12, Saidon does not explicitly teach the system as set forth in claim 11, at least one of the interface agents being further operable to generate a voice signature based upon the spoken message. However, Hasan, in the same field of voice-enabled system for remote access of information endeavor, discloses generating voice signature and authenticating a person [see Abstract and Fig. 3]. It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Hasan into the teaching of Saidon in order to provide a more secured communication by preventing an unauthorized access to confidential information.

Regarding claim 13, Saidon further teaches the system as set forth in claim 9, the interface agents being selected from the group consisting of an email agent, a telephone agent, a voice-mail agent, and a video-conference agent [see Figs. 5-8].

Regarding claim 14, Saidon further teaches the system as set forth in claim 9, the information stored in the database being selected from the group consisting of email, word processing documents, spreadsheets, presentations, schedules, contracts, drawings, figures, telephone numbers, dates, names, records, notes, files, images, addresses, and personal data about the user [see Fig. 6].

Claim 15 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 9.

Claim 16 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 14.

Regarding claim 19, Saidon does not explicitly teach appending the message with an identifier forming the request. However, Hasan, in the same field of voice-enabled system for remote access of information endeavor, discloses the user provides his personal identification code (PIN) and authenticator compares the user's PIN with

the corresponding PIN stored in the memory to establish the user's identity [see Hasan, Abstract and Figs. 2-3 and Col. 4, Line 56 to Col. 5, Line 18]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Hasan into the teaching of Saidon in order to provide a more secured communication by preventing an unauthorized access to confidential information.

Regarding claim 20, Saidon further teaches receiving a spoken sentence from the person, converting the sentence into a written message (= speech-to-text conversion) [see Col. 14, Lines 15-67]. Saidon does not explicitly teach appending the message with an identifier forming the request. However, Hasan, in the same field of voice-enabled system for remote access of information endeavor, discloses the user provides his personal identification code (PIN) and authenticator compares the user's PIN with the corresponding PIN stored in the memory to establish the user's identity [see Hasan, Abstract and Figs. 2-3 and Col. 4, Line 56 to Col. 5, Line 18]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Hasan into the teaching of Saidon in order to provide a more secured communication by preventing an unauthorized access to confidential information.

Other References Cited

5. The following references cited by the examiner but not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- A) Wolfe et al, U.S. Pat. No. 6,507,817.
- B) Alpdemir, U.S. Pat. No. 6,658,389.
- C) Freedman et al, U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. US 2004/0249650 A1.
- D) Sravanapudi et al, U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. US 2001/0049603 A1.
- E) Bravin et al, U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. US 2003/0069997 A1.
- F) Adams, U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. US 2002/0124100 A1.
- G) Demetriades et al, U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. US 2004/0015605 A1.
- H) Shavit et al, U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. US 2002/0160757 A1.
- I) Hall et al, U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. US 2002/0123899 A1.


6. A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. FAILURE TO REPLY WITHIN THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE WILL CAUSE THE APPLICATION TO BECOME ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). EXTENSIONS OF TIME MAY BE OBTAINED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 37 CAR 1.136(A).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3991.

The Group fax phone number is (703) 872-9306.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam, can be reached on (571) 272-3978.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


Philip B. Tran
Art Unit 2155
March 10, 2005